

PAYMENT OF VOLUNTEER COMPANIES IN NEW MEXICO.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 730.]

MAY 18, 1860.

Mr. LONGNECKER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of the volunteers of New Mexico, submit the following report :

The facts connected with the service of these companies are about the following: General Kearney, on the 18th August, 1846, took peaceable and quiet possession of New Mexico; the allegiance of the people was transferred from the republic of Mexico to the United States, and a military government established over them, regulated by a code of laws called the Kearney Code. General Kearney, by his proclamation of August 22, 1846, pledged the faith of the United States to the peaceful inhabitants of New Mexico for the protection of their persons and property.—(See Doniphan's Expedition, pages 86–118.) On account of the incursions of the Indians, and with forces at his command being unable to afford that protection, gave permission to the people of New Mexico to march against the Navajoes.—(See page 208.)

Colonel Newby, by military order No. 22, dated Headquarters of 9th Military Department at Santa Fé, March 27, 1848, the people were ordered to organize and hold themselves in readiness to march against the Indians, repel incursions, and rescue their stolen property. Under the authority thus given there have been organized for service, and have served in battle with the regular troops, various volunteer companies of New Mexico. These troops served before the erection of civil government over the Territory of New Mexico, and as they served with United States troops upon the call, and with the permission of the military and civil governors of New Mexico, they were properly in the service of the United States, and as will appear by the communication from the Pension Office, have been allowed bounty land. The companies under Captains Skillman and Glasgow served during the Mexican war, and fought bravely at the battle of Sacramento under Colonel Doniphan.—(See Doniphan's Expedition, pages 302, 315, 323.) The company under Colonel St. Vrain was present at the

battles of Canada, El Embuda, and Taos, and fought with great gallantry.—(See Doniphan's Expedition, page 393.) The company under Lieutenant D. Vigil, who went with Major Gilpin to the Navajo country, also performed arduous and valuable services.—(See Doniphan's Expedition, pages 177, 201.) The troops under Major Ramon Luna made one of the most successful and brilliant campaigns on record, against the Navajoes.—(See report of J. S. Calhoun, in President's Message and accompanying documents, 1850-'51; also for the services of the company of Vincenté Romero, see report of Major Grier.) Captain Chapman's report is with the papers showing the services of his troops, and the volunteers with them.

All the troops named in the bill have been recognized as properly in the service of the United States as volunteers. Being so in the service of the United States, the act of Congress of March 19, 1836, provides for the payment of such troops, and all that is required is an appropriation of Congress to enable it to be done. That Congress will take great pleasure in providing the means to pay these troops according to law for their services cannot be doubted.

PENSION OFFICE, *March 23, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the printed bill, entitled "An act to provide for the payment of certain volunteer companies in the service of the United States, in the suppression of Indian hostilities in New Mexico," which you enclosed to me on the 28th ultimo.

In compliance with your request I herewith send you copies of the rolls of the several companies therein named, as they appear on file in this office, viz: Captain C. St. Vrain, Captain Ramon Luna, Captain Anastasio Garcia, Captain Antonio Lucero, Captain Ramon Sanchez, Captain Vincente Romero, Captain José Marie Valdez, Captain John Chapman, Lieutenant D. Vigil, and Captain Edward J. Glasgow. No roll of Captain Henry Skillman has yet been furnished.

In reply to your inquiry I have to state that land warrants have been issued for service in each of these companies; but further than to inquire, in each case, whether the claimant served with the armed forces of the United States for fourteen days, or was engaged in actual battle, this office has not entertained the question as to the precise duration of the service of these companies as such.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, &c.,

GEO. C. WHITING,
Commissioner.

Hon. M. A. OTERO,
House of Representatives.